

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NAMING THE UVALDE, TX POST
OFFICE IN HONOR OF DOLPH
BRISCOE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, which names the Uvalde Post Office in my district after an esteemed Texan, Dolph Briscoe.

Dolph Briscoe is a true Texan who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, served in the State Legislature and was eventually elected governor of Texas.

Briscoe's roots in Texas stretch back to the days of the Alamo.

He is a direct descendant of Andrew Briscoe, an original signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Dolph Briscoe is also a dedicated American who served this country as an army officer during World War II.

Born in Uvalde to a self-made cattle rancher, Dolph Briscoe has strong roots in Texas and in the agricultural community.

He was long a champion of cattle ranchers and the agricultural community as a whole.

Serving as the youngest ever president of the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association, Briscoe spearheaded the effort to eradicate the screw worm from cattle in the southwest, a great achievement for the livestock industry.

Once elected to the Texas State Legislature, Briscoe also led the initiative to create the farm-to-market road system.

The road system was a great improvement to the rural infrastructure of Texas, finally allowing farmers direct access to the cities and it is still in use today.

After serving in the legislature, Briscoe was elected governor of Texas.

As a pro-business Democrat, he was the only modern governor of Texas to enact a balanced budget without raising or creating new taxes.

The Briscoe family remains active in Texas, especially in Uvalde where Dolph Briscoe continues to work as a cattle rancher and also serves the community as the Senior Chairman of the First State Bank of Uvalde.

Dolph Briscoe has been committed to the city of Uvalde for decades and deserves to be honored in this way.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIREFIGHTERS
OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO
COUNTIES WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES IN SERVICE TO THEIR
COMMUNITIES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today along with my colleagues Rep. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER and Rep. JERRY MCNERNEY to recognize three individuals in our districts who have given real meaning to the term "hero." Deputy Fire Marshall Ron Wiley of Richmond Fire Department, Captain Matt Burton and Fire Engineer Scott Desmond both of Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Department each lost their life in the line of duty this past month. The loss has been enormous for the families they leave behind and for their colleagues who have served our communities alongside them.

We ask a tremendous amount from our first responders every single day. They spend their time and talents educating us on how to stay safe and well and then when all the safeguards fail, we ask them to set aside their own safety for us. Ron Wiley, Matt Burton, and Scott Desmond knew well the risks they took but they each also held a deep commitment to service in our communities.

It has been said of each of these men that the love of their work as firefighters was second only to their love of family and our thoughts and prayers are with those families now. We in the communities they served so selflessly now stand to support the loved ones they have left behind.

Richmond Deputy Fire Marshall Ron Wiley, Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Captain Matt Burton and Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Engineer Scott Desmond were mentors and role models and will be forever missed. Even though we don't often express it, we as a community value our fire fighters highly and are grateful for the service and sacrifice of these brave men.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ACT

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, H.R. 2107 fulfills my commitment to my constituents to continue the effort to create a Chief Financial Officer for the Territory. This is the third time that this legislation has been on the floor of the House. However, the other body failed to act on it in the previous two Congresses.

When I first introduced the idea of a CFO for the Virgin Islands in 2005, I did so in re-

sponse to the concerns, complaints and distrust of government voiced by my constituents and as a measure to prevent the territory, which was experiencing a serious financial crisis, from falling into the abyss of fiscal insolvency. I believed then, as I do now, that having such an office in our government, free of political pressures and with the statutory responsibility and authority to certify revenue projections and prevent deficit spending, could assist our government to establish sound financial practices which would put the Islands on the path to improved financial management going forward. Because of our long history of poor financial management and practices, an office such as this would also help to immediately restore the confidence of the Federal Government and others in our ability to be fiscally transparent and accountable.

As I have said on this floor and in many other settings, in drafting H.R. 2107, I looked at the example and record of what having such a position has meant to the financial management and fiscal health of the District of Columbia.

After having decades of fiscal mismanagement and protracted deficits, the District today enjoys annual balanced budgets and surpluses under the stewardship of a Chief Financial Officer; an office that was voluntarily retained by the city after the mandated office went away with the end of their Financial Control Board. Both the general public and elected leadership of the District recognize the benefits of having an impartial arbiter, free from the pressures of politics, managing their finances—something I strongly believe my community can benefit from as well.

When I first introduced this bill the territory's long-term debt totaled \$1 billion. Fiscal crises have been narrowly averted through repeated borrowing. Such borrowing and debt creation has led to the \$3 billion debt reported by Governor De Jongh in April of this year—a practice he has already stated he will not continue.

There are those, Madam Speaker, who will ask why I am doing this at this time, particularly because the islands just seven months ago, inaugurated a new governor whose background is in financial management and who has been a good friend and political ally. I want to be perfectly clear that I have every confidence in Governor John de Jongh and his administration and believe that they will do a first rate job of managing the territory's finances. He has already begun to do so.

I am re-introducing this bill because my constituents continue to see it as a necessary measure, and because, like the CFO in Washington, DC, it can assist our governor in his stated goal of paying our obligations and bringing the territory's finances into balance. It would also be a way to provide apolitical and indisputable information on the financial state of our government, as well as bridge any divisions between the administration and the legislature in the interests of expediting a positive and sustainable agenda for the people of the Virgin Islands.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

As also happens up here, there is often disagreement between the governor (and his financial team) and the legislature as to the precise fiscal condition of the territory and the true revenue projections for the coming fiscal year. A CFO, in my view, would take the uncertainty out of this equation and allow our legislature and governor to work better together because they would both get their numbers from the same independent source. Additionally, the departments of government, semi-autonomous agencies and labor unions would be better able to plan, and the people of the Virgin Islands in general would have information on how the millions of Federal dollars coming to the Virgin Islands are being spent.

The bill as being passed today contains certain changes. I have revised it with respect to providing a financial management system because such a system is already in the process of being implemented. In recognition of and in deference to the upcoming constitution to be drafted by the people of the Virgin Islands, the bill before us calls for the term of the Chief Financial Officer to expire at the implementation of a ratified Virgin Islands Constitution or in five years, whichever comes first.

All four previous Constitutional documents have contained a provision similar to what is proposed in this legislation, and it is my hope that our Fifth Constitutional Convention will present a document for the ratification of the people of the Virgin Islands that will make this legislation unnecessary. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the Chairman of the Resources Committee, the gentleman from West Virginia, NICK RAHALL, without whose support this bill would not be on the floor today. I also want to thank my friend Ranking Member DON YOUNG for his support as well.

Madam Speaker, it has been said that "heavy is the burden that one who is called to lead bears". Pursuing enactment of this bill has not been an easy burden to bear but an important one; which I am proud to bear. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2107.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1, Improving America's Security Act of 2007, which includes critical security provisions endorsed by the 9/11 Commission as well as an overdue expansion of the visa waiver program, VWP.

Mr. Speaker, the visa waiver program is an immensely valuable program for the United States, and the legislation before us will not only enable us to expand the visa waiver program to additional allies who already offer U.S. citizens visa-free travel to their countries, but simultaneously strengthen the security aspects of the program.

Although H.R. 1 expands the VWP, I would have preferred that the program expand to all the roadmap countries, among them some of

America's most important and loyal allies, and I am hopeful Congress will take steps to address this issue in the near future.

Despite my concerns that some roadmap countries may be excluded, this legislation is an important step towards addressing the security concerns that members of Congress have articulated about the visa waiver program. I am confident that once the security measures outlined in H.R. 1 are implemented, those members of Congress who previously had concerns about the program will be open to considering further expansion of the visa waiver program.

In the meantime, it is imperative that the Bush Administration and Congress continue to work with our allies, who deserve to participate in the program. The United States should also provide assistance to help these governments reduce their visa refusal rates and meet all the necessary requirements detailed in the Improving America's Security Act.

It is clear that H.R. 1 fulfills key 9/11 Commission recommendations and improves the security aspects of the visa waiver program, and I applaud my colleagues for their efforts to make our country safer and further expand this program. However, America cannot successfully fight the battle against international terrorism without the cooperation and trust of our allies. I would like to remind my colleagues that the 9/11 Commission also stressed the need for diplomacy and cooperation with other Nations to address the threat of international terrorism. In this vein, further expansion of the visa waiver program can play a vital role in strengthening America's relationships and security partnerships with our most trusted allies—which is essential to preventing another 9/11 disaster.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Chairman, I would like to express my support for the amendment to the Farm Bill Extension Act of 2007, H.R. 2419, offered by my friend Mr. FRANK from Massachusetts. The amendment aims to remove the expansions in the underlying legislation that would expand the Farm Credit System. The Farm Credit System is a \$163 billion direct lending Government sponsored enterprise that has its own regulatory system and preferential borrowing authority.

The proposed expansions of the Farm Credit System in the original measure would have diluted farmer ownership of farm cooperatives and would have undermined farm cooperative principles. Fortunately, the Frank amendment passed last night by a voice vote, as these extensions of the Farm Credit System clearly did not have the support of the majority of my House colleagues. Because the amendment was approved, the Farm Credit System is bet-

ter able to serve its intended constituency by providing credit directly to family farmers, ranchers, and farmer-owned cooperatives.

The protections afforded by the Frank amendment to the farming sector are also reflected in protecting our financial institutions by preventing an unwarranted expansion into mainstream banking activities. Our Nation's financial institutions have continued to evolve and meet the needs of consumers over the years. These innovations should continue to be fostered while maintaining the security and independence of our financial institutions.

I applaud the passage of the Farm Bill, which will provide our Nation's farmers with meaningful and necessary assistance for the next 5 years. I look forward to continuing to work with my House colleagues to enact effective reform in the financial sector as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 748. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 748.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, as reflected in the RECORD, on July 25 and 26, I was on a scheduled leave of absence for a family funeral. If I had been present, I would have voted in the following way:

On rollcall No. 727, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 728, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 729, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 730, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 731, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 732, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 733, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 734, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 735, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 736, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 737, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 738, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 739, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 740, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 741, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 742, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 743, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 744, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a record of how I would have voted on Thursday, July 26, during which I

was at the Oval Office with the President discussing my recent mission to Iraq.

(1) Stearns Amendment (15 minutes)—The amendment would prevent the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from using any appropriated funds for the purpose of bringing lawsuits against a company that requires its employees to speak English. It would not affect any current case, only future suits. Vote: Yes.

(2) Flake Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would strike \$200,000 in funds for the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine. Vote: Yes.

(3) Flake Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would strike \$720,000 in funds for the meteorological equipment at Valparaiso University, IN. Vote: Yes.

(4) Pence Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would prohibit funds in the act from being used to enforce "the amendments made by subtitle A of title II" of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. This amendment would prohibit the DOJ from enforcing the electioneering communications section of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law. Vote: Yes.

(5) Upton Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment states that no funds shall be made available to purchase light bulbs that do not have the "ENERGY STAR" or "Federal Energy Management Program" designation. Vote: Yes.

(6) Jordan Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce spending across-the-board by 3.0% to reflect FY 2007 levels—Vote: Yes.

(7) Price (GA) Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce funding in the bill by 1.5%. (30 minutes) Vote: Yes.

(8) Musgrave Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce spending across-the-board by 0.5%. (30 minutes) Vote: Yes.

(9) Republican Motion to Recommit (15 minutes)—Vote: Yes.

(10) Passage—H.R. 3093—CJS Appropriations (5 minutes) Vote: No.

TRIBUTE TO MELVA JOAN ADKINS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on October 13, 1964, Melva Joan Adkins of East Lynn, West Virginia began her career with the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, as a GS-3 Clerk Stenographer in Real Estate's Management and Disposal Branch. She always sought ways to show initiative and achieve results regardless of the assignment. Her dedication to a job well done enabled her to move to the top of the administrative field.

In 1974, Mrs. Adkins advanced to the position of Conveyance Examiner and was responsible for assuring the Government acquired appropriate title to project lands. She audited project acquisition records and recommended actions to correct deficiencies. Melva quickly mastered the skills required for the position and became an expert in the audit field.

Her exceptional communication skills and real estate knowledge were an asset when

she was promoted to Realty Specialist in the Encroachment Section of Management and Disposal Branch in 1990. She worked on the very difficult Muskingum Area Encroachment Program, the first dedicated program of its type in the Nation. Her ability to communicate at all levels contributed to successful resolution of many situations.

In 1992, Mrs. Adkins transferred to the Management Section of Management and Disposal Branch. Her new duties entailed the utilization, disposal, and leasing of civil works projects in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio. In this position she worked with numerous Federal, State, and local agencies, the general public, and other Corps team members to meet the projects recreation and flood control missions. In the last two years of her employment, Mrs. Adkins arranged in-kind services totaling over \$1,000,000 that benefited various District projects. She is known by Corps customers as honest and ethical and has consistently received recognition and praise for her high quality of work.

During her career Mrs. Adkins has been an excellent role model and mentor to her team members. She has served on numerous Federal Women Program committees, served as a Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor, and helped to write the Huntington District's Etiquette Book for the Physically Challenged.

Melva J. Adkins has made significant contributions to the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers' mission. On July 30, 2007, she retired with 42 years, 7 months, and 5 days of Federal service, and I offer my heartfelt congratulations on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. DONOGHUE, CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF THE WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a devoted public servant. Michael J. Donoghue will officially retire tomorrow as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Worcester Regional Retirement System, marking the end of a distinguished career in which he has ably served the citizens of my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts and all of Worcester County.

For more than thirty years, Mike Donoghue managed a \$400 million pension system comprised of fifty Worcester County communities and another forty-five school districts. During that time, he vigorously protected the retirement security of thousands of public employees with an uncommon care and concern for their future hopes and dreams. Throughout his tenure, Mike made it his business to personally know the individual members of the Worcester Regional Retirement System and steadfastly refused to allow the pensioners to become anonymous participants in a cold actuarial exercise. Mike's unflinching loyalty to his membership will forever be remembered as the hallmark of his remarkable public service.

It also bears noting that Mike Donoghue's contributions to the greater Worcester community extend far beyond the management of the

Worcester Regional Retirement System. Mike served two terms on the Worcester City Council before being elected Worcester County Treasurer in 1978. Mike's unique combination of insight, skill and common sense made him a coveted board member for virtually every major civic and charitable organization in the City of Worcester. He has served on the board of directors for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives (MBI). Mike's expertise and leadership helped establish Worcester as a center for medical research more than twenty-five years ago and the Gateway Park Project which is right now transforming a former brownfield site in Worcester into another major biomedical research park is also due in no small part to his efforts. Mike's compassion for the less fortunate has caused him to also lend his talents to the Board of Directors for the VNA Network Foundation, the Worcester Area Mental Health Association, the Worcester Area United Way and the Special Olympics of Massachusetts. After the devastating Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse Fire in 1999, Mike was a natural choice to help the City commemorate the sacrifice of the six fallen firefighters and was appointed to chair the Worcester Firefighters Memorial Committee. He remains committed to that effort today as an active board member.

A man of deep religious faith, Mike has also given to his community through his church as a former member of the Board of Incorporators of Catholic Charities for the Worcester Diocese and Saint Vincent's Hospital. A proud graduate of Nichols College, Mike has had the special privilege of serving as a trustee for his alma mater.

Madam Speaker, all of us in public service share a special bond forged by the great demands, challenges and rewards of our profession. In the finest traditions of our noble calling, Michael J. Donoghue has proven himself worthy of the respect and admiration he enjoys from his colleagues in government. I will always be grateful for his sage advice and loyal friendship as will my colleague, U.S. Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY, who has long relied on Mike as a trusted advisor and confidant. I know Senator KENNEDY joins me in expressing the heartfelt appreciation of the United States Congress to Michael J. Donoghue on this occasion and we wish him, his wife Maureen, and their beautiful children and grandchildren continued best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. You, my friend, have earned it.

RENT IS DUE ON THE COURTHOUSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's the first of the month—time to pay the rent at the courthouse. Unfortunately, the costs keep rising with the number of criminals held accountable for their crimes each year, but the good news is their victims have plenty of resources at their disposal as a result of the Victims of Crime Act, or better known as VOCA Fund. Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Poe/Costa/Moore(KS) Amendment

to add more money to the VOCA Fund and continue to meet the needs of victims across our country.

I have been an advocate for victims since my early days as a prosecutor with Harris County District Attorney's office. There are a few cases that have stood out in my career and influenced my life in a significant way. One such case was that of a young woman, who was as student at the University of Houston. She was the victim of a brutal rape and assault. She was abducted at gunpoint at a gas station, taken to a wooded area, raped, beaten, and left for dead. Through her brave determination, she was able to identify her attacker and I was assigned to prosecute him.

Today, victims are assigned court advocates during the trial. Back then, she had no one. No one was there to help her through the emotional stress of a rape and the grueling task of confronting her attacker in court. She did it though, she got through the trial and we sent her attacker to the penitentiary for life. But her story wasn't over, you can't wrap it up with the bang of a gavel and nice neat bow.

Because there were little-to-no resources available to victims at that time, she was not able to cope with the aftermath of her assault. You see, for the victim the ordeal is not over once the trial ends. It follows them day after day and spreads through their life like a cancer out of control. In the following months, her husband left her and sued her for custody of their two children—taking away the only two reasons worth living for.

She spiraled out-of-control. Without anyone to turn to, and losing her family, she couldn't escape the pain. In a hand written note, that I keep with me to this day, she said "I'm tired of running." Madam Speaker, the reality is, she didn't have anyone to run to and sadly ended her life. This ought not to be. This was a tragedy that could have been avoided, a tragedy that continues to influence my life and career.

One of the first things I did as a Member of Congress was establish the bipartisan Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus to advocate and provide a voice for crime victims. I currently co-chair the Caucus with my good friend and victim crusader, Congressman JIM COSTA (CA-20). There are caucuses for everything under the sun in D.C., but there was nothing that advocated solely for crime victims. It seems they are always the ones that are forgotten.

The VOCA Fund is one of those things that is close to my heart and is something, like the victims it benefits, worth fighting for. Created by Congress in 1984 to provide Federal support to Federal, State, and local programs that assist victims of crime, VOCA provides assistance to over 4,400 agencies and 3.8 million victims every year. And it doesn't cost the taxpayers anything! The VOCA Fund is derived entirely from fines and penalties paid by offenders, not taxpayer revenues. But every year, we have to fight to keep it safe for victims. The Washington bureaucrats try to rob this fund for other pet projects.

VOCA funds several important programs, such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, children protection agencies, and pays direct expenses to victims of violence, such as assault, rape, and child abuse.

The Children's Assessment Center in Houston is a recipient of VOCA funding and is the very best of its kind. They take sexually as-

saulted kids and help them through the trauma of recovery and trial. The Houston Children's Assessment Center in Houston became the model for others across the country. The services they provide to children who have been victims of crime are invaluable and the most advanced methods used today. Without the knowledge and compassion of thousands of dedicated people who work on behalf of victims, more and more victims would end up like that young wife and mother that desperately tried to hold it together, but couldn't take the pain any longer.

As a constant reminder, I keep that handwritten note on my desk. As a judge, it was my pleasure to hand down one of my many creative sentences and see how far we have come in recognizing the needs of victims. I have dedicated my life to helping victims and proudly serve on the Board of Directors for the Houston Children's Assessment Center and the National Children's Alliance in Washington D.C.

Madam Speaker, criminals should continue to pay for the system they have created. They should pay for the expenses victims incur because of crime. Criminals need to pay the rent on the courthouse—crime victims have already paid enough. No more victims should run.

And That's Just The Way It Is.

SUDAN AND IRAN DIVESTMENT BILLS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of three bills under consideration today in the House of Representatives: the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act (H.R. 180), the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act (H.R. 2347), and a bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (H.R. 957).

With a combination of sanctions and divestment, these important pieces of legislation demonstrate our nation's commitment to human rights and the rule of law with our actions and not just our words. The governments of Sudan and Iran must understand the consequences of their deplorable and inhumane policies.

As the genocide continues in the Darfur region of Sudan, many state and local governments have chosen not to invest in companies that do business in Sudan. Until the government of Sudan takes transparent steps to end the violence and increase humanitarian access to the refugees in Darfur, divestment remains an essential tool for pressuring the Sudanese government. The Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act supports efforts by local government and universities to divest from companies that conduct business in Sudan. Additionally, it prohibits the federal government from entering into contracts with these companies as well. Coupled with diplomatic pressure, the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act is a significant step in the fight against the horrific genocide taking place in this region of the world.

Two additional bills, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act and a bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, seek to increase pressure

on the government of Iran to halt its uranium enrichment program. The Iran Sanctions Enabling Act authorizes state and local governments to divest from companies with \$20 million or more invested in Iran's energy industry. A second bill amends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed. As Iran relies heavily on foreign investment in its energy sector, these bills will effectively suffocate Iran's resources.

The Federal legislation paves the way for states to make smart, conscious decisions regarding the investment of employee pension funds and other public investments. As the first state to enact divestment legislation, the State of Florida has taken the lead in protecting state interests from reprehensible regimes. I applaud the Florida legislature and all of the community organizations that pressed for this important initiative.

Madam Speaker, the powerful economic tool of divestment makes it clear to Sudan's complicit government and Iran's egomaniacal leadership that the United States and the American people stand strong in the battle against genocide, extremism, and corrupt governance. I congratulate the Members of the House of Representatives for their work on these issues and urge my colleagues to support these three important bills.

UNITED AMBULANCE SERVICE HONORED AS MAINE'S ONLY CAAS ACCREDITED AGENCY

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, this year, United Ambulance Service of Lewiston/Auburn, Maine received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), making it the first and only ambulance service in Maine and one of only about 107 ambulance services in the country currently to hold this distinction.

United Ambulance is jointly owned by Central Maine Medical Center and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. Since 1981, it has served the citizens of Androscoggin County, Maine, including the towns and cities of Auburn, Greene, Lewiston, Minot, Mechanic Falls, New Gloucester, and Sabattus.

The CAAS accreditation reflects compliance with national standards of excellence and a continuing commitment to maintaining compliance with these standards. The Commission is a non-profit organization established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. Its national standards address the delivery of patient care, the service's total operation, and its relationships with other agencies, the public and the medical community. According to CAAS, accreditation signals that the ambulance service "has met the 'gold standard' determined by the ambulance industry to be essential in a modern emergency medical services provider." In addition, the standards for accreditation often surpass those set forth by local or State regulation.

The communities served by United Ambulance have been the beneficiary of excellent service since the founding of United Ambulance. The CAAS accreditation acknowledges

its dedication to the highest standards. In addition, as Paul Gosselin, United's Executive Director, noted, "We have achieved accreditation but I believe it can only be a stimulus for continued improvement." This commitment and United Ambulance's "gold standard" will serve the people of the region well. I congratulate the employees of United Ambulance on their achievement, and, on behalf of the people they serve, thank them for their dedication and hard work.

CONGRATULATING AL HEFFERNAN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Al Heffernan, on the occasion of his retirement from Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation in McIntosh, AL.

During his 20-year tenure at Ciba, Al served as plant manager and executive director of the McIntosh site, the largest manufacturing site globally within Ciba. He also served as director of environment health and safety and director of engineering.

Al began his career in 1973 at the Ethyl Corporation as an engineer and project manager. After 8 years, he moved on to Barnard and Burk Engineers and Constructors, where he worked for 5 years as a division head and chief engineer. In 1986, he accepted his job with Ciba and started as a project engineering superintendent at the St. Gabriel, LA, site. Over the next 20 years, he served as manager of project engineering at the McIntosh site and head of engineering in Europe before returning to McIntosh in 1995.

In addition to his dedication to Ciba, Al has devoted countless hours to civic and industrial activities. He chaired the steering committee and served as the first chairman of the board of Manufacture Alabama. He founded Washington County Economic Development Initiative and serves on the board. Al is past president of the board of directors for The Forum, as well as past chairman, executive committee member, and member of the board of directors for the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. With an obvious desire to help others, Al serves on the board of WHIL FM91.3, a Mobile public radio station; Partners for Environmental Progress; McIntosh Industrial Park Association; McIntosh Area Betterment Association; and Alabama School of Mathematics and Science Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know his family, his wife, Vickie; their three children, John Mason Heffernan, Lee Ellen Heffernan, and Matthew Evan Heffernan; his many friends; and past and present Ciba employees join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the city of McIntosh and Alabama's First Congressional District.

Al will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with family and loved

ones. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

THANKING MR. SIDNEY BERGER
FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND
SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the hard work and commitment that Mr. Sidney Berger has given to my alma mater, the University of Houston, for the past 38 years. As the director of the University of Houston's Drama Department, he has led the department to national acclaim.

From the time he became chairman of the drama department in 1969, to today, the department has grown from a three-person faculty and 30 students to a faculty of 15 and 300 students. This is an admirable accomplishment.

A significant factor that has shaped this growth has been Mr. Berger's central belief that young artists who are developing their talents should have the chance to work with great artists. Inspired by these beliefs, Mr. Berger founded the Houston Shakespeare Festival in 1975 and 3 years later co-founded the Children's Theatre Festival. Before the two programs were formed, there was no professional outlet in which theatre students could polish their skills in the city of Houston. Today, students have the opportunity to work with theatre pros from across the city, as well as guest artists. Mr. Berger leaves a legacy as he steps down as director to teach and head the Shakespeare and children's festivals.

Besides staging one play for each one of these programs each summer, and productions in the University of Houston's four show subscription season, Mr. Berger founded the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America. He teaches a course in "Acting Shakespeare" each semester and has served several years on the board of the International Shakespeare's Globe Center.

Mr. Berger will be greatly missed and thanks to his success, the next director has a steady foundation to build upon. Again, we applaud the efforts of Mr. Berger and wish him well in his future endeavors.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, between 1915–1923, the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against 1.5 million Armenians. As the first genocide of the 20th century, this crime against humanity has yet to gain full recognition by the United States.

However, for the first time in history, the majority of Congress supports the Armenian Genocide Resolution, House Resolution 106.

While scholars, historians, and the international community acknowledge the geno-

cide, the Turkish government continues to deny this atrocity. Passing House Resolution and recognizing the Armenian genocide will help prevent other nations from being victims of such horrid tragedies.

By acknowledging the events of 1915, Congress will finally recognize the history of an entire nation—a nation whose population was driven out of their homes, massacred, but never forgotten.

The United States owes Armenians recognition of this great crime, and should pass House Resolution 106.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, better known as the Farm Bill. This measure reflects Rhode Island's priorities: protecting our farmers and surrounding environment and caring for the most vulnerable members of society.

There has been much discussion about reforming the Farm Bill, particularly with regard to how payments are structured to producers of certain commodities like cotton, rice and sugar. H.R. 2419 begins this process by lowering the annual adjusted gross income of farmers eligible for subsidies from \$2.5 million to \$1 million. For farmers making \$500,000 to \$1 million, 67 percent of their income must come from farming or they cannot receive Federal subsidies. This structure will prevent millionaires from receiving farm subsidy benefits, and will also make payments transparent. While I believe we should go further with reform, I look forward to building on this restructuring in future legislation.

This legislation increases funding for important conservation programs for Rhode Island, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. I am also pleased that H.R. 2419 includes funding for specialty crops, which will benefit our fruit, vegetable and nursery crop farmers. These farmers, which make up a large percentage of Rhode Island's farming landscape, will now receive equal assistance and access to conservation programs.

H.R. 2419 increases funding for the nutrition title, which includes food stamps and other programs aimed to combat hunger and improve nutrition for children, the elderly and low-income Americans. This bill reauthorizes programs such as the Community Food Projects program, which awards grants to nonprofit groups that establish community food projects targeted to low-income individuals. This measure also increases funding for school nutrition programs for purchasing fruits, vegetables and nuts, and creates more avenues for produce to flow from local farmers to schools.

Finally, H.R. 2419 also encourages the expansion of renewable energy research and production, contains a new section for horticulture and organic agriculture, and includes funding to make sure our food supply is safe and stable. Mr. Chairman, this legislation helps farmers meet growing environmental challenges, gives consumers more health food choices, and promotes critical renewable energy development. I look forward to passing this measure into law.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
SAMUEL W. DOWNING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Samuel W. Downing, who passed away June 30, 2007, at the age of 45. Captain Downing, who served with distinction in the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department, was a pillar of the Mobile community and will be deeply missed.

Captain Downing, a native of Wilmer, Alabama, was a resident of Mobile County. He served with the department for more than 21 years and was a shift supervisor for Engine 15 and the Hazardous Material Response Team at Gus Rehm Fire Station. In 1995, Captain Downing received the Firefighter's Creed Award.

A colleague recalled Captain Downing's sincere passion for his job. He particularly enjoyed when school groups would tour the fire station. Rather than having them simply walk through the fire station to see the fire trucks and the sleeping quarters, Captain Downing did his best to entertain as well as educate the children. He would also let the kids try on the fire suits and even practice using the fire hose.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Samuel W. Downing. He will be sorely missed by many but most by his beloved wife, Lisa; his three children Cody, Victoria, and Colton; and his brother Wayne. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation.

Iran presents a major problem for the United States on a number of levels. Its overt nuclear ambitions, its interference in the Israeli-Arab peace process, and its support for Hezbollah—which is second only to al Qaeda in the number of American lives it has claimed—as well as Hamas and other terrorist organizations all present challenges to stability in the region.

We must use our economic leverage, among other tools, to address this problem, and this legislation allows us to do that. First, it extends the threat of sanctions to foreign

subsidiaries of American companies if the subsidiaries were acquired or created in order to evade existing prohibitions on trade with Iran. Second, the definition of Iran's petroleum sector is expanded to include petroleum by-products and liquefied natural gas. Third, it expands who may be sanctioned to include the underwriters of these investments in Iran's energy sector.

Iran's economy is heavily dependent on oil and gas windfall profits, and this money is also used to fund terrorism and its nuclear program. This bill is a crucial part of continuing sanctions efforts, both by the U.S. and the international community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HENRY FORD SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an important problem that threatens America's position as the world's economic leader. Each year, only 70,000 students graduate from America's colleges with degrees in engineering and technology. In China, more than 700,000 students graduate per year with similar degrees. China, which has the world's fastest growing economy, is quickly becoming a dominant manufacturing power.

To ensure our position as the world's global economic leader, we must encourage students to pursue careers critical to America's industries. An educated workforce will be the stimulus for our economy. Therefore, I have introduced H.R. 1568, the Henry Ford Scholarship Program Act of 2007. By providing college students pursuing engineering, math, science or health care degrees with up to a \$20,000 scholarship, America will create the innovators it needs to sustain our leadership in the competitive global market.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1568. Together we can help our students afford higher education and ensure our economic well-being.

DARFUR DIVESTMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 180, the Darfur Divestment and Accountability Act. This measure supports State, city, and university efforts to divest funds from, or restrict investments in, companies that conduct business operations in Sudan. H.R. 180 works toward a goal of ending a travesty that has resonated with people all over the world.

My home State of Rhode Island has been active on this tragic issue for many years, with Providence becoming the first U.S. city to divest from companies tied to the Sudanese

Government in 2006. Just this past month, Rhode Island passed Sudan divestment into law. These actions would not have been possible without our very active student population, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their persistent advocacy.

Like my constituents, I am deeply concerned over the ongoing violence and humanitarian disaster in the Darfur region. It is truly a tragedy that we have not learned from our mistakes in the past regarding genocide, but it is not too late to change the situation in Sudan. It is our duty to end this human suffering, and as a member of the Sudan Caucus, I will continue to work with my colleagues to stop this conflict and promote peace in Sudan. Passing H.R. 180 is an important and necessary step for Congress to take as we work to achieve this goal.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
EDWARD B. BAUMHAUER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire State of Alabama lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Edward B. Baumhauer was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

A graduate of the School of Architecture at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University, Mr. Baumhauer was an award-winning architect. His works include many recognizable buildings in the Mobile community including the building for Little Sisters of the Poor, the contemporary glass Infirmary 65 building, and the renovation of the Government Street Hotel. Mr. Baumhauer won architectural awards for the Ryan-Welsh Stevedoring building and the Lyons, Pipes and Cook law firm office. The Capri Cinema, Mobile's first rocking chair theater, was also one of Mr. Baumhauer's creations. His designs, masterfully created, reflected his passion for his work which he found "much more fascinating than [his original major] mechanical engineering." Throughout his career, Edward Baumhauer served as a principal of several architecture firms; he retired from Baumhauer-Hall Architects in 2002.

In addition to his architecture achievements, Mr. Baumhauer served the city of Mobile and state of Alabama in various other civic capacities. Son of long-time Mobile Mayor Charles A. Baumhauer, Edward Baumhauer was an all-city football player at Murphy High School. While attending Alabama Polytechnic Institute, he was elected the president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He was a member and chairman of the board of deacons at First Baptist Church and a member and president of the local and State chapters of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Baumhauer was also a member of the Fairhope Yacht Club and several mystic organizations.

Mr. Baumhauer proudly served the United States Navy in World War II while stationed aboard a submarine chaser in the western Pacific theater of operations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community

leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by those who knew him. Mr. Baumhauer is survived by his wife, Bettye Clements Baumhauer of Mobile; three daughters, Uan Mejia, Lea McQueen, and Carey Golden; 4 step-children; 6 grandchildren; 12 step-grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter; and his longtime caregiver, Adele Tate. May his family know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of all who loved and appreciated Mr. Baumhauer as they did.

UNITED STATES CARIBBEAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to express praise and support for H.R. 176, introduced by Representative BARBARA LEE.

This bill would provide financial assistance for an educational exchange program for U.S. and Caribbean students and enhance training for Caribbean educators. A program such as this would enable students from the U.S. and the Caribbean to gain a wealth of academic and cultural knowledge. Further, it would contribute to enhancing the relationship the U.S. has with its Caribbean neighbors.

This past June, heads of state from the Caribbean visited Washington, DC for a week long conference. I attended meetings with them to learn more about the needs of their countries and to begin a dialogue that would foster closer diplomatic relations. I learned more about the Caribbean nations difficult challenges with widespread poverty, crime, and drug addiction.

While I and others in the executive and legislative branches of government worked towards strengthening our government-to-government ties, non-governmental organizations and ordinary citizens meet in seminars organized to foster closer people-to-people ties.

I am particularly concerned about trade, economic growth, and national security, all of which have a connection to the social challenges in some Caribbean nations.

Due to globalization and other advances in technology, the world is getting smaller and thus competition in the marketplace will be more rigorous. In order for people of the Caribbean to compete in the future marketplace, they will need an education in the characteristics of globalization.

It is clear that education is a key ingredient to resolving poverty, not only in the U.S., but in the Caribbean as well. The lack of opportunities to receive an education has far reaching implications. This bill offers some help with addressing the social issues that are threatening the health and stability of the Caribbean, which has a direct connection to limited educational opportunities. It is important for the U.S. to play a role in uplifting the people of the Caribbean.

I applaud Representative LEE for introducing this bill and highlighting the need for the U.S. to create strong educational exchange programs with the Caribbean. I urge my col-

leagues to support this bill. Supporting this bill will affirm the U.S. interest in building relationships with the Caribbean, which strengthen the ties between our people and have a lasting beneficial impact upon the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 758, I was unavoidably absent; had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; On rollcall No. 759, I would have voted "aye"; On rollcall No. 760, I would have voted "aye"; On rollcall No. 761, I would have voted "aye"; On rollcall No. 762, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO MR. P.T. WRIGHT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. P.T. Wright, the Acting Deputy Director of the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, who was recently awarded the prestigious Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive.

This award was given for his extraordinary contributions to the security of our Nation over the course of a U.S. border management career spanning 33 years. This award is presented to a small number of federal senior executives who have made significant accomplishments throughout their careers in the Federal Government. Mr. P.T. Wright first began his career with the former U.S. Customs Service on August 30, 1973, and has held key positions in customs and border protection management in Washington, DC, El Paso, Texas, Dallas/Ft. Worth, and Nogales, Arizona.

Mr. Wright also serves as the U.S. team leader on the U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Technical Working Group and the U.S.-Canadian Bi-National Technical Working group for the implementation of the US-VISIT program. In recognition of his work with Mexico and Canada, he has received the National Narcotics Officers Association Customs Award and the European Commission-Sanctions Ambassador's Peace Recognition Award.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this time to recognize Acting Deputy Director P.T. Wright, a fellow public servant working to help improve our Nation's security.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARKE COUNTY, ALABAMA, RESPONDERS FOR SAVING THE LIVES OF TWO YOUNG CHILDREN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to several local responders in

southwest Alabama whose heroic actions helped to save the lives of two toddlers.

John Thomas Atchison and Cole Hicks accidentally fell into the backyard pool of their daycare and were unresponsive when they were discovered. Dispatchers were immediately called for help, and Alabama State Trooper Daryl Linder was the first one on the scene. Moments later, Jackson Police officer Carey Slayton arrived, and both began administering CPR on the toddlers. Many others began arriving on the scene, including Dr. Jared Ellis, who had heard about the incident.

The boys were flown to the University of South Alabama Women's and Children's Hospital. For the next 6 weeks, Cole Hicks was hospitalized in Mobile and then transferred to Birmingham. He is still recovering and undergoing physical therapy daily. Even though Cole still faces a long road to recovery, he is alive and that is all that matters to his parents and the people that rescued him that day.

As for John Thomas Atchison, the 2-year old became responsive and started breathing on his own soon after the officers started giving him CPR. Today, he is a healthy young boy with no serious damage from the accident.

The Alabama State Legislature as well as the Clarke County Commission have passed resolutions honoring the men and women that saved these two young boys including: Alabama State Trooper Daryl Linder, Jackson Police officer Carey Slayton, Jackson Police officer Barry Fowler, Dr. Jared Ellis, EMT Scott Flach, Alan Rutledge, EMT Stacey Rutledge, Kenny Reeves, EMT Rodney Johnson and registered nurse Henry Eubanks.

Madam Speaker, the dedication of the men and women who responded that day is a testimony to local law enforcement agencies and their commitment to their job and community. I am truly grateful to have men and women like this serving our local districts.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE—ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

This year marks the anniversary of the creation of the civil rights organization that contributed to significant change in the United States. Founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Ralph Abernathy, and other ministers whose moral vision led to them becoming civil rights leaders, the organization was originally named the Southern Leadership Conference on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration. The original name embodied the spirit of addressing civil rights issues nonviolently, Christian beliefs, and the goal of desegregating buses in Montgomery, Alabama. The organization's strength and support was rooted in the Black church community.

Through mobilizing the black community in Montgomery to walk and share car rides to destinations for almost a year, this organization successfully led a bus boycott which resulted in desegregation of buses. This event

was a landmark victory for the civil rights movement. Another success for the organization came with the 1963 demonstration held in downtown Birmingham to desegregate local businesses. Thousands of people, including schoolchildren, attending the demonstration were sprayed by high pressure fire hoses and attacked by police dogs. Many were arrested and jailed. The inhumane and unjust attack on demonstrators was aired on national TV and around the world. The massive outcry from Americans urged the Kennedy administration to act.

A settlement was reached whereby the downtown Birmingham businesses were desegregated and addressed discriminatory hiring practices.

Montgomery and Birmingham were catalysts for a Civil Rights Movement that ended legal segregation in this nation and opened doors of opportunity for an oppressed Black people. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the leadership of Dr. King became the agent of change to a make just society that is more in keeping with the promise of the U.S. Constitution.

On this day, I pay honor and thank the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for their contribution to the Civil Rights Movement. I admire the nonviolent approach taken by the organization to address discrimination. I urge my colleagues to learn about the contributions of this great organization.

CONGRATULATING JENNIFER COLLIER FOR HER PARTICIPATION IN THE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jennifer Collier, my constituent, for her selection and subsequent participation in the House Fellows Program. The program, eligible to high school government teachers, aims to help teachers improve the knowledge and understanding of Congress through a one-week intensive session on the history and practice of the House of Representatives.

Ms. Collier, a social studies teacher at Mt. Diablo High School in Concord, was selected through a competitive process in which all public, private and parochial secondary school government instructors in my congressional district were eligible to apply. The Historian's office made the final selection. During the school year following her participation in the House Fellows Program, Ms. Collier will have the responsibility to present her experiences and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for other teachers of history and government, expanding the reach of the program to those who do not come to DC themselves.

I am certain it will be a valuable experience for her and that she will pass on what she learns firsthand about Congress and inspire future students to become informed and active citizens. I congratulate Ms. Collier and all the other teachers selected to participate in the House Fellows Program this year.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL STERLING HUMBLE FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. GRAVES Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joel Sterling Humble, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 205, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joel has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Nicholas has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 39 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader, librarian and scribe. Joel is also a warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joel cleared a 1/4 long fence line of overgrown bush and debris at the Blue Springs Cemetery in Blue Springs, MO. Joel has also earned several special awards including the 12 Month Camper Award, the Internet Safety Award, Leave No Trace Award, Snorkeling Award, World Conservation Award and 50 Miler Award.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joel Sterling Humble for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
THOMAS GLYNN PARKER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Autaugaville and indeed the entire State of Alabama, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Born on September 18, 1934, in Ripley, TN, Thomas Glynn Parker began his career in the transit business. He relocated to Denver, Minneapolis, Austin, and Phoenix before arriving in Montgomery, AL. On July 3, 1964, he married his loving wife Sandra Tribble, and after the birth of their son, Mitch, the family settled in Prattville, where his love for politics was ignited.

Tom served on the Autauga County Republican Executive Committee and the State Executive Committee. He received his first appointment to the Autauga County Board of Registrars in 1995, and his second in 2003. Tom devoted countless hours working in support of local and State GOP candidates. Most recently, he served as Autauga County team leader for Governor Bob Riley. Tom was a true leader and an Alabamian of distinction that will be greatly missed.

Tom was not only dedicated to his work but also to his beloved family. He taught his grandchildren the importance of voting, helping them get involved in political campaigns starting at a young age.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community

leader and friend to many throughout the State of Alabama. Thomas Glynn Parker will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Sandra; his son, Mitch; his daughter-in-law, Selina; his brother, Charles; and his two grandchildren, Mason and Hanna Grace—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END THE COMMERCIAL SEAL HUNT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H. Res. 27, a bill introduced by Representative LANTOS, which urges the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt. This bill addresses the inhumane treatment of seals.

I would like to express my thanks to Representative LANTOS for introducing this bill and raising awareness on the inhumane treatment of seals in Canada.

At present, there is a practice of hunting and capturing seals for commercial purposes. The United States addressed this issue in 1972 through the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which barred the import of seal products in our great country. Today, despite opposition from the United States and other countries, our Canadian neighbors continue to hunt seals.

In Canada, seal hunters maim and kill their prey by shooting and clubbing. Each year thousands of seals experience this tragedy, of which a large portion are under 12 weeks old. This is unacceptable.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, which will send a message to our Canadian neighbors about our discontent with the mutilation and killing of seals. Our great Nation opposed this issue years ago and should continue to do so.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3093, the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill.

This legislation includes \$175,000,000 for a DNA analysis and capacity enhancement program and other local, State, and Federal forensic activities. Of this funding, not less than \$151,000,000 is directed toward the Debbie

Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program which helps to reduce and eliminate the backlog of DNA samples and increase State and local DNA laboratory capacity.

I introduced legislation named after Debbie Smith in 2001. In 2004 this bill was signed into law and since that time, Congress has consistently shown its support for this valuable program. With this funding we help ensure that other rape survivors will not have to wait as long as Debbie did to put their assailant behind bars.

I want to acknowledge the funding in the bill for efforts to combat human trafficking. It is important that we protect the victims of the sex trade industry, and punish the predators that exploit them. While human trafficking is a problem in other countries, it is happening here in the United States too.

I also want to thank Chairman MOLLOHAN and Ranking Member FRELINGHUYSEN for their dedication to fully funding the Census Bureau's needs. As we head into the final two years before the decennial census in 2010, funding for the census is now more critical than ever. This bill fully funds the ramp-up to this constitutionally mandated survey, and restores the funding that the Bush administration cut for the decennial census partnership program. Partnerships are an essential component of the decennial census effort, enlisting local community leaders and organizations to partner with the Census Bureau to use existing community relationships to promote census participation.

Mr. MOLLOHAN and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN should also be commended for providing funds to once again continue the Survey of Income and Program Participation. Last year, the Bush administration proposed eliminating this survey, which is the only source of policy-relevant data on economic well-being and participation in government programs, and replacing it with a more limited survey a few years from now. After much discussion with members of Congress and the stakeholder community, the Administration came to the conclusion that their plan to replace the SIPP was not viable, and they changed course, advocating a continuation of the SIPP. While they had not requested enough money in the budget to do so, Mr. MOLLOHAN and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN came through to provide the necessary funds.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PIERRE'S ICE CREAM SHOP

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of Pierre's Ice Cream Shop. Pierre's Ice Cream Company was founded in the Cleveland area and has been a family-owned business since 1932.

Pierre's founder, Alexander "Pierre" Basset was the inventor of the original recipe for their delicious gourmet ice cream. Three quarters of a century later, Pierre's Ice Cream Company continues to uphold a standard of excellence in customer service and quality products.

It did not take long for Sol Roth, the owner of the Cleveland based Royal Ice Cream

Company to recognize the value, uniqueness, and potential of Pierre's Ice Cream Shop. As time progressed, country clubs, restaurants, and other gourmet venues began marketing Pierre's brand of ice cream. In 1960, Roth acquired Pierre's Ice Cream Company and dedicated all of its resources to displaying and expanding its special recipe.

In 1979, Roth requested his daughter Shelley to assist him with the business. In 1991, Shelley Roth became the president and chief executive of the company, overseeing 125 employees, the production, and distribution of more than 235 kinds of ice cream, sherbet, sorbet, frozen yogurt, and novelties.

In 1995, Pierre's built a contemporary 40,000 square foot distribution center and 16,000 square foot office headquarters on the land it originally purchased in Cleveland, Ohio. Sol passed away in 2005; however, his daughter Shelley continues Pierre's outstanding legacy today.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District, I wish to commend Pierre's Ice Cream Company on their 75th anniversary. Their existence is a true testament to family values and dedication, and the continuing legacy of the American dream.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH MYERS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Kenneth Myers, a fellow Florida Legislator and outstanding attorney in the Miami community.

During Mr. Myers distinguished career in the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate, he displayed a dedication and commitment to strengthening the state of Florida. Serving 4 years in the House of Representatives and 12 years in the State Senate, Mr. Myers sponsored more than 200 bills that strengthened Florida and our sense of social justice. He personified the essential qualities of a great community leader and earned his place among the pillars of our community.

Mr. Myers was a brilliant attorney and proudly practiced law with his father for over thirty years. When his father retired, he joined another distinguished law firm and continued with compassion his path for justice in our South Florida community. Mr. Myers' sincere involvement instilled a profound impact on the community, resulting in many awards, accolades and honors including a Coconut Grove park named in his honor.

Mr. Myers lived a stunning life, graduating from Miami High School in 1950 then pursuing higher education at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He proceeded to the University of Florida, School of Law. Mr. Myers' devotion to education led him to serve as a member of the prestigious University of Miami Board of Trustees for 25 years.

Mr. Myers' is survived by his sister and my esteemed friend, the Jewish Community Relations Council Director Judy Gilbert-Gould and her husband, Gerald Gould. He is also survived by his nieces Nancy Gilbert, Carolyn Gilbert Epstein and Belinda Gilbert; his nephew Robert C. Gilbert, an officer of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Board; Mark Gilbert,

and eight grandnephews and grandnieces. Mr. Myers was the son of the Federation's Founding President, Stanley C. Myers.

His Family and friends will memorialize him during a special service at Temple Beth Am on Tuesday July, 31 2007.

Kenneth Myers was a dedicated public servant and his leadership in the community was genuinely admirable. We would all be well served to emulate the legacy of achievement that Mr. Myers practiced throughout his lifetime. May his memory be blessed.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF THE HON. MYLAN ROBERT ENGEL, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama, has lost a dear friend and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mylan Engel, a distinguished former State legislator, was a devoted family man while spending nearly 50 years of his life in the arena of public service. Mylan served in both the Alabama House of Representatives and the Alabama Senate from 1961 to 1970.

During his career in the legislature, Mr. Engel was the chairman of the Mobile County delegation for 4 years and served as the floor leader under three governors. During this time and in the years that followed, he also served as chief attorney for the Mobile County Personnel Board. He never fully retired from practicing law until he suffered a stroke about a year ago.

While a member of the Alabama Legislature, Mr. Engel sponsored countless bills that were later signed into law, but he is perhaps best known for his legislation to create the University of South Alabama in 1963. Mylan was a member of the University's Board of Trustees from 1963 to 1975, and he stepped down from the USA Foundation in June.

Mr. Engel grew up on a farm in rural Summerdale, Alabama, where he developed a work ethic rooted in his Christian faith and instilled in him by his parents.

Farming became his passion, and he continued to plant and harvest crops throughout his life. His family notes that Mr. Engel was known for giving away his new potatoes, corn, beans and watermelons. In addition, Mr. Engel was a 50-year member of the congregation at Grace Lutheran Church.

Mr. Engel, a graduate of the University of Alabama, was a distinguished veteran of World War II. He served in the Rhineland and Central European campaigns.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for Mobile and south Alabama.

Mylan Engel, Sr., will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Rositha Engel; his four sons, Mylan R. Engel Jr., Mark Engel, Daniel Engel, and Tommy Whitman; his two daughters, Carla Meyers and Bonita Engel Amonett; his seven grandsons and two granddaughters—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO
APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of the underlying bill, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 121. This resolution calls on the Government of Japan to finally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for the coercion of over 200,000 young girls and women into sexual slavery during World War II and the colonial occupation of Asia in the 1930s and '40s.

Known to the world as "Comfort Women," these women suffered unimaginable dehumanization. These women deserve a justice that is long overdue. While the facts of these crimes are incontrovertible, Japan has not officially accepted responsibility for these atrocities. The Japanese government needs to recognize these injustices so that wounds of these women can begin to heal.

With less than 300 "comfort women" alive today, we can no longer turn a blind eye to these women's stories and sacrifices. It is our moral obligation to urge Japan to restore the dignity that was stolen from so many women over 50 years ago.

I commend Representative Honda for his deep commitment to this issue and for championing the meaningful underlying legislation. The history of the comfort women is the history of the world, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

CELEBRATING THE SEVENTH ANNUAL
COLORADO DRAGON BOAT
FESTIVAL**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the seventh annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival.

Last weekend, thousands of people gathered at Denver's Sloan's Lake Park for 2 days of Asian cuisine, performing artists, crafts, and even a dragon boat race on the lake.

Over the course of its short history, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival has seen a tremendous growth in interest from the community. The festival drew an estimated 16,000 spectators in 2001. This year, organizers expected over 100,000 people to attend the festival.

Since its inception in 2001, the festival continues to highlight Colorado's rich pan-Asian American heritage. This year the festival featured the "Explore Asia" area that will house educational displays and demonstrations from the Mongolian, Hmong and Vietnamese communities.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent a State with such a vibrant and active Asian-American community. The annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival does much to highlight the many contributions the Asian-American community makes to our State and our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating

the seventh annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, July 30, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 2750, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 580, H. Res. 580, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 579, and H. Res. 579 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 758 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2570, the NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 759 on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 760 on passing H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 761 on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 579, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 2831, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 762 on passing H. Res. 579, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 2831, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on July 30, 2007:

H.R. 2750, the NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. On motion to suspend the Rules and pass, as amended, rollcall 758, I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eight Mile River in the State of Connecticut. On ordering the previous question, rollcall 759, I would have voted "nay."

H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eight Mile River in the State of Connecticut. On agreeing to the resolution, rollcall 760, I would have voted "nay."

H. Res. 579, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 2831, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision. On ordering the previous question, rollcall 761, I would have voted "nay."

H. Res. 579, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 2831, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision. On agreeing to the resolution, rollcall 762, I would have voted "nay."

CONGRATULATING REACH OUT
AND READ ON RECEIVING THE
2007 CONFUCIUS AWARD**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Reach Out and Read, ROR, for receiving the 2007 Confucius Award for Literacy from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, UNESCO. The theme for this year's prize was "Literacy and Health," and Director-General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, made the award on the recommendation of an international jury. He honored ROR's success in reaching low-income children most at risk of school failure by offering literacy guidance to their families and promoting a reading culture.

The nationally recognized program, started at Boston Medical Center in 1989, makes imaginative use of pediatric medicine to encourage early literacy. Parents trust their pediatricians, and Reach Out and Read has built upon this relationship. Through this program, parents receive a free book to read aloud to their child at every well-child check-up. This innovative program will distribute more than 4.8 million books to 2.8 million U.S. children this year, and operates in all 50 States to reach about 25 percent of children who live at or near poverty in the United States.

I have the deepest admiration for Reach Out and Read, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved honor. This award will help ensure that Reach Out and Read continues to grow and change the lives of American children for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JIM WHAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism of Mr. Jim Wham of Centralia, Illinois. Mr. Wham delivered a passionate speech this past May 5th expressing the importance of winning the War on Terror.

In his brief message, Mr. Wham, an attorney at law in my district, remarked on the immense debt we owe our fighting men and

women for this sacrifices they have made in this war and rebuked the defeatists who would set an arbitrary date for surrender.

Therefore, I respectfully submit the text of Mr. Wham's speech for the RECORD in the hopes that others will stand with him in support of our troops and the mission for which they fight.

[From the Sentinel, May 8, 2007]

2007 TRIBUTE TO THE TROOPS

(By Jim Wham)

I want to commend the 15th Street Church of God for this event at the Bandshell. This evening of prayer and song forms the perfect occasion to recognize the men and women serving this country in the Armed Forces of the United States. Each one of them and their families are making a sacrifice unlike any other.

Every American when called to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States performs the duty assigned to him or her by the Commander-in-Chief and not by Congressmen and Senators.

I thought of each life of these men and women and all others who served their country. The course and destiny of their lives are set by chance assignment of that duty. Some come back unscathed, others marked by grievous wounds and others never come back.

The month of May is the month we pay honor to the men and women on Armed Services Day a couple of weeks from now, and then a week later, Memorial Day—a day when everyone in this land of liberty must stop, look to the story of the soldiers, sailors and marines who fell on battlefields—went down in sinking ships—in crashing planes—in the deserts—in the jungles—in the towns—all over this world during the entire lifetime of this nation.

The unknown soldiers and the unsung heroes—there are thousands and thousands of them. These gallant men and women most likely will never be known by the people for what they did. They served and they did not ask for glory. Their deeds of valor on battlefields and oceans and in the air never had a chance to be forgotten because they remained unspoken and unknown.

The American people never forget these known and unknown living and dead Americans—this ever expanding LEGION OF HONOR has never let their country down and no one in this country should ever let them down.

Jesus tells us “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.” The peacemakers—they are the men and women in the American Armed Forces—the peacemakers who in defending freedom do so to bring peace to the world—God's world and to the children of God.

The tyrants foment conflict and war. The armed forces of the U.S. are always against the tyrant—never in support of the tyrant, and these American men and women we honor today—honor them for opposing a tyranny of a new dark age, a tyranny of worldwide terrorism—a dark age spawned from the dens of terrorists throughout the world even in this country and in our allies Britain and Israel as well as in countless other nations.

These insane religious fanatics misuse their religion to cultivate and persuade thousands of suicide bombers to destroy multi-thousands of innocent people who are unlucky enough to be at the wrong place at the wrong time when the suicide bomber explodes himself in their midst.

This war in Iraq is no civil war—it is a war against gangs of vicious mad dog criminals who want to kill off any democratic government that can be formed—a government that people yearn for and deserve. These crimi-

nals know that they cannot succeed as long as American troops are in Iraq helping good people form a democracy.

These criminals hide in the casbahs and mountains while promoting their lackeys to kill themselves and others, hoping that such killings will aid the second-guessers in America to oppose the Commander-in-Chief by insisting on a day of surrender—a day to leave the Middle East—a day to quit any resistance against the terrorists.

These second-guessers proclaim to the world that the war is lost; their words bring smiles to the evil faces of those marauders. These quitters are like a quarterback shouting to the other team. “We’re not going to pass, we’re runnin’ around the left end.”

We are running away from you—the terrorists—is the message of the quitter.

If they want to win a war they say is lost, they, the second guessers not the President, must change their tune because quitters never win.

The Scripture proclaims “If the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle.” There are far too many uncertain trumpets being sounded in Washington today and in the national news media. These uncertain trumpets inspire nothing but joy in the haunts of the terrorists who love to hear those mournful tunes in the USA.

When these friends from Hell see the leader of the Senate on television proclaim the war is lost, the terrorists around the world applaud and promote more suicide bombers to hasten the day of American surrender.

And when they see and hear the Senate leader condemn the Vice President, they applaud again and try to kill him in Pakistan.

Don't these second guessing quitters know that the United States has a vital interest to contest the terrorist in the Middle East—in that caldron of hatred and insanity which is the launching pad for terrorists against this country and its allies?

Don't be second-guessers give any thought at all to the downside of an American surrender by pulling out of that part of the world?

Every concerned American who stops, looks, and listens to the present day happenings knows the disastrous downside of an American pull-out from Iraq.

It would proclaim to the world an American confession that terrorism has won a victory over the United States.

World power of the United States would evaporate.

No longer would the United States lead in the battle for peace and freedom which is so necessary to the salvation of our own way of life.

Do the quitters ever envision their day at the Baghdad airport—when a thousand transport planes land and take off with the American army to the dismay of every decent person who knows that there goes the last best chance for peace and freedom?

Why can't these quitters envision that into the vacuum left behind, the criminal gangs of the Taliban, al Qaeda, the death squads of both Sunnis and Shiites will seize the opportunity in a common cause against their own people and against America and her allies by joining together these legions of evil against the decent people of the Middle East.

Doesn't it occur to the quitter that a coalition of Iran, Iraq and Syria under despotic leaders will bring pressure and threat of conquest against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as Saddam Hussein attempted to do in the 1990's Desert Storm?

Can't the quitters envision the utter chaos that will come when the nuclear bomb is developed in Iran or acquired from North Korea and those reckless fanatics threaten their surrounding countries to join the crowd?

If America is gone from Iraq, will that insane fanatic from Iran, Ahmadinejad press the button that will lead to a premature Armageddon in Israel?

A hundred years ago, when Teddy Roosevelt was President, he spoke these words about this nation's destiny: “We have no choice as to whether or not we shall play a great part in the world. That is already the case. “All that we can decide is whether we shall play it well or play it ill.”

Thus far, we have played it well but we are now at the crossroads of the decision that will affect all mankind. The question is, will we stay and fight for freedom and for peace or will we forfeit the field to those vicious criminals who in no way respect the God-given miracle of life.

Rudyard Kipling—the great British patriot and poet of the 19th and 20th Centuries put to verse the lesson of perseverance in long lasting battles. Here's the way he wrote it:

“How do we know, when the long fight rages,
On the old, stale front that we cannot shake,
And it looks as though we were locked for ages.

How do we know they are going to break?

There is no lull in the level firing,
Nothing has shifted except the sun.

Yet we can feel they are tiring, tiring—

Yet we can tell they are ripe to run.

Something wavers, and, while we wonder,

Their centre-trenches are emptying out,

And, before their useless flanks go under,

Our guns have pounded retreat to rout.”

In other words, we win by hanging on.

My friends, American forces are going to win this war against terrorism. The war is not lost and no one should listen to the quitters because they are the losers of the present and the future.

If we but stand fast with the troops and our Commander-in-Chief, the fiends of Hell will lose. And the sacrifice of these gallant men and women we honor today will not have been in vain. They must not be let down by quitting and surrender.

THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I hereby submit, for the RECORD, the text of my report to you on the activities of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in early July in Kyiv, Ukraine.

I had the honor to chair the U.S. Delegation, which included Senator BEN CARDIN as the deputy head of delegation, as well as our Majority Leader, Mr. STENY HOYER. Other participants on the U.S. Delegation were Representatives CHRIS SMITH, MARCY KAPTUR, LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER, MICHAEL McNULTY, ROBERT ADERHOLT, MIKE MCINTYRE, HILDA L. SOLIS, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, DORIS MATSUI and GWEN S. MOORE.

As the report details, the delegation was active at the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which is an inter-parliamentary body consisting of 56 participating States from North America, Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as numerous partner states from the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. Like the OSCE as a whole, its mandate embraces the comprehensive definition of international security to include not only the traditional military political-military issues

but also human rights, economic cooperation and environmental protection.

In submitting this report, I want to stress the value of American engagement in world affairs, particularly by Members of Congress. In Kyiv, we engaged in a dialogue on issues of concern not only to us, but to our counterparts from other countries. Having served as the President of the OSCE PA, I remain active as President Emeritus as well as a Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs. Senator CARDIN serves as a Vice President. In Kyiv, our colleague HILDA SOLIS was elected Vice Chair of the "Third" Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. Members of the U.S. delegation introduced resolutions, suggested amendments and participated in the voting which led to the adoption of a declaration. The text of the declaration can be found on the Assembly's Website, www.oscepa.org.

Our activity was not confined to the meeting halls. We also met President Yushchenko and other Ukrainian officials, in recognition of the importance of Ukraine. We laid wreaths at Babyn Yar and at the Ukrainian Famine memorial. We traveled to Chernobyl, the site of the nuclear accident in 1986.

These activities, I would argue, advance our country's national interest. The U.S. Delegation represented the wonderful diversity of the United States population. It also highlighted a diversity of opinion on numerous issues. It nevertheless revealed a common hope to make the world a better place, not just for Americans but for all humanity. The delegation helped to counter the negative image many have about our country.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I write to thank you for designating me to head the U.S. Delegation to the Sixteenth Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), and to report to you on the work of our bipartisan delegation. The delegation participated fully in the activity of the Standing Committee and the plenary sessions as well as in the Assembly's three committees.

Joining me as Delegation leaders were Commission Co-Chairman Senator Benjamin L. Cardin and Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer. Other Helsinki Commissioners who also participated include the Ranking Member, Rep. Christopher H. Smith, and Representatives Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Robert B. Aderholt, Mike McIntyre, Hilda L. Solis and G.K. Butterfield. They were joined by Representatives Marcy Kaptur, Michael R. McNulty, Doris Matsui and Gwen S. Moore.

This year's Assembly, hosted by the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's Parliament, in Kyiv, July 5-9, brought together 234 parliamentarians from 50 OSCE States, representatives from several Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, as well as delegates representing Afghanistan, a Partner for Cooperation. Five delegations were headed by parliamentary leaders. The U.S. delegation, with 13 Members, was the largest in Kyiv. The designated theme for this year's Annual Session was "Implementation of OSCE Commitments."

Assembly President Göran Lennmarker (Sweden) opened the Inaugural Plenary Session which included an address by Ukrainian

President Viktor Yushchenko, who took the opportunity to discuss Ukraine's commitment to democratic development and challenges. President Yushchenko urged delegates to recognize, in their respective parliaments, the genocidal nature of the Ukraine Famine, the Holodomor. OSCE Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos, the Foreign Minister of Spain, also addressed the plenary before taking questions from the parliamentarians.

At the Standing Committee, the leadership body of the Assembly composed of the Heads of Delegations representing the 56 OSCE participating States, I presented a summary of my activities as Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, including my visits in June to Israel and Jordan. During the Kyiv meeting, I convened a special meeting on the Mediterranean Dimension of the OSCE, attended by approximately 100 parliamentarians from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, and Jordan as well as many of the OSCE participating States.

The Standing Committee also heard reports from other Assembly Special Representatives. The OSCE PA Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada), reported that the Assembly was operating well within its overall budget guidelines and that KPMG, the Assembly's external auditors, again had delivered a positive assessment of the Assembly's financial management. The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Treasurer's proposed budget for fiscal year 2007/2008, including an increase of 4.18% over last year's expenditures. OSCE PA Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver reported on the International Secretariat's activities.

Members of the U.S. Delegation actively participated in the work of the Assembly's three General Committees: Political Affairs and Security; Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Each committee considered its own resolution as well as nine of the 10 supplementary items registered before the session. One supplementary item was debated in plenary. Senator Cardin introduced a supplemental item on "Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of Intolerance against Muslims and Roma," and seven other U.S. delegates introduced a total of 25 amendments to either a committee resolution or to a supplementary item. All were adopted.

The U.S. Delegation also was instrumental in garnering necessary support for supplementary items and amendments proposed by our friends and allies among the participating States. The supplementary items considered and debated in Kyiv, other than Senator Cardin's, included "The Role and the Status of the Parliamentary Assembly within the OSCE"; "The Illicit Air Transport of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition"; "Environmental Security Strategy"; "Conflict Settlement in the OSCE area"; Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Human Rights Defenders and National Human Rights Institutions"; "The Ban on Cluster Bombs"; "Liberalization of Trans-Atlantic Trade"; "Women in Peace and Security"; and, "Strengthening of Counteraction of Trafficking Persons in the OSCE Member States."

Attached is a copy of the Kyiv Declaration adopted by participants at the Assembly's closing plenary, which includes the input of the U.S. Delegation.

Following her appearance before the Helsinki Commission in Washington on June 21 during our hearing on "Guantánamo: Implications for U.S. Human Rights Leadership," Belgian Senate President Anne-Marie Lizin, the OSCE PA Special Representative on Guantánamo, presented her third report on

the status of the camp to a general Plenary Session of the Assembly. This report followed her second visit to the detention facility at Guantánamo on June 20, 2007 and gave the Assembly a balanced presentation which concluded that the facility should be closed.

The OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Tone Tingstgård (Sweden), hosted an informal working breakfast to discuss gender issues where she presented her plan for future actions addressing gender issues within the OSCE PA. Members of the U.S. Delegation participated in the discussion at this meeting.

During the course of the Kyiv meeting members of the U.S. Delegation held a series of formal as well as informal bilateral meetings, including talks with parliamentarians from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, parliamentary delegations from the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, including Israel, and Afghanistan. The U.S. Delegation hosted a reception for parliamentary delegations from Canada and the United Kingdom.

On the final day of the Kyiv meeting, the Assembly re-elected Göran Lennmarker (Sweden) as President. Mr. Hans Raidel (Germany) was elected Treasurer. Four Vice Presidents were elected in Kyiv: Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), Jerry Grafstein (Canada), Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland), and Panos Kammenos (Greece).

Rep. Hilda Solis was elected Vice Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, which is responsible for addressing humanitarian and human rights-related threats to security and serves as a forum for examining the potential for cooperation within these areas. She joins Senator Cardin, whose term as Vice President extends until 2009, and me as OSCE PA President Emeritus, in ensuring active U.S. engagement in the Assembly's proceedings for the coming year.

While the Delegation's work focused heavily on OSCE PA matters, the venue presented an opportunity to advance U.S. relations with our Ukrainian hosts. While in Kyiv, the U.S. Delegation met with Ukrainian President Yushchenko for lengthy talks on bilateral issues, his country's aspirations for further Euro-Atlantic integration, energy security, international support for Chernobyl containment, and challenges to Ukraine's sovereignty and democratic development. The President discussed the political situation in Ukraine and the development of the May 27 agreement that provides for pre-term parliamentary elections scheduled for September 30, 2007.

The Delegation also visited and held wreath-laying ceremonies at two significant sites in the Ukrainian capital: the Babyn Yar Memorial, commemorating the more than 100,000 Ukrainians killed there during World War II—including 33,000 Jews from Kyiv that were shot in a two-day period in September 1941; and the Famine Genocide Memorial (1932-33) dedicated to the memory of the millions of Ukrainians starved to death by Stalin's Soviet regime in the largest man-made famine of the 20th century.

The delegation traveled to the Chernobyl exclusion zone and visited the site where on April 26, 1986, the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded, resulting in the world's worst nuclear accident. While in the zone, the delegation visited the abandoned city of Prypiat, the once bustling residence of 50,000 located a short distance from the nuclear plant. Members toured the Chernobyl facilities and discussed ongoing economic and environmental challenges with local experts and international efforts to find a durable solution to the containment of large quantities of radioactive materials still located at the plant.

I hope this summary of the Delegation's activity is useful to you, and let me again thank you for making this trip possible. The Seventeenth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be held early next July in Astana, Kazakhstan, and I hope we can count on your support once again in ensuring that U.S. interests abroad are advanced through active participation in the OSCE PA.

Sincerely,

ALCEE L. HASTINGS,
Chairman.

BRINGING DIVERSITY TO THE FOREFRONT OF CURRENT ISSUES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand today to call attention to the issues of diversity this country is facing at the moment. I would also like to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial by Lee Bollinger, president of Columbia University, from this week's edition of the New York Amsterdam News, entitled, "What's next for diversity?"

Diversity has been, and continues to be, an issue faced by America's institutions of higher education. Brown v. Board of Education was a monumental step forward in achieving diversity for the students in these institutions, but Supreme Court decisions like Grutter v. Bollinger, have caused many to wonder if we have forgotten what those involved in Brown v. Board of Education sought to do. Instead of seeing the Supreme Court continuously striving to achieve diversity, Americans see the decisions of the Supreme Court slowly chipping away at the precedents set forth in Brown v. Board of Education. The question, "What's next for diversity?" is one at the forefront of current issues and it calls all those who support diversity to support all that promotes it and denounce all that contradicts it.

I believe that programs meant to achieve diversity like affirmative action are necessary, and those who oppose such programs should be questioned for their motives. I hope that the questions brought forth by worried Americans will be answered in a timely fashion. Diversity has not been achieved, therefore I do not agree with those who believe diversity aimed programs should be phased out. I support affirmative action, as well as other programs aimed at achieving diversity, and call for the support of all others who feel the same.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR DIVERSITY?

(By Lee C. Bollinger)

For those of us who worked over so many years to reach the Supreme Court and affirm the constitutionality of affirmative action in higher education, which occurred in 2003 in Grutter v. Bollinger, this is the moment we have been dreading. The recent 5-4 decision limiting voluntary desegregation programs in our nation's public schools represents an inversion of the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision's clarion call for racial equality in education. And it is all too easy

to understand how societal efforts to achieve racial integration, including through affirmative action in higher education, are now in serious jeopardy.

To be sure, Justice Kennedy in his concurring opinion stopped the majority short of slamming the door on race-based diversity in our schools; and even the Chief Justice tried to explain why the use of race in law school admissions is different. Specifically, the Court said it was tolerable to consider race as one of several factors in Grutter because individual applicants were evaluated in a "holistic" way and because "the expansive freedoms of speech and thought associated with the university environment"—and fostered by diversity—"occupy a special niche in our constitutional tradition."

Yet anyone reading between the lines of the majority opinion could feel the Chief Justice straining to explain Grutter's constitutionality before making the point he really wanted to make: Grutter is a weak precedent with "expressly articulated key limitations" and that "the lower courts" have "largely disregarded" this "in extending Grutter" beyond "the unique context of higher education."

It is important that we read the narrowness of this interpretation of Grutter alongside the sweeping rhetoric that Chief Justice Roberts really wants this holding to signify: "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race." This is the language anti-affirmative action advocates and a host of others will seize on. In this way, the methodical process Thurgood Marshall and others followed to achieve the Brown revolution will be used by the Roberts Court to undo it.

The difference is that the Brown decision brought the law down to earth, where it could finally see that separate school facilities were, as a matter of fact and experience, "inherently unequal." The Seattle and Louisville decision removes the law to its formalistic and disconnected position of a century ago, where, as empty rhetoric, it imagines an America that never was—and because of it, may never be.

In doing so, it obscures the larger debate about race in this country. Stripped bare, however, these school decisions are not about precedent, they are about broad philosophical differences about the role of public institutions in dealing with issues of race in America. Undergirding them is the feeling that Justice Scalia has made explicit, that society is tired of mending centuries of slavery and Jim Crow segregation, and that it is now up to those who have been discriminated against to "make it" on their own, as other groups have. For them, to consider race even for the noble end of integration does more harm than good by inflaming racial tensions.

These arguments make many Americans uncomfortable, and so they avoid them. I say let them be put on the table and debated, not hidden beneath phony "interpretations" of Brown. How should we respond to the fact that cities are more segregated today than they were a half century ago, or that the unemployment rates among African Americans in our inner cities is a multiple of the national number?

The problem for the Chief Justice is that wishing Brown stood only for the simpler proposition of "stopping discrimination" does not make it so. From the very beginning, Brown impelled us to take affirmative steps to achieve racial justice. And it is absurd to think the Court that decided Brown would have struck down these local school districts' efforts to carry out this mission.

Yet this is precisely the result the Roberts Court wants us to take at face value. It is up to us to confront them on this and insist, that if they are going to take this new turn in our basic law, they must state their real reasons for it. Otherwise the Court will continue pretending that its rulings are consistent with the Brown line of cases—and thus devoted to "conservative" principles—until there is nothing left of Brown. If that is not the epitome of "judicial activism," what is?

I often wonder what the unanimous Brown Court would think of a country fifty-three years later that has proven itself too impatient to achieve racial justice after centuries of being too slow to recognize it. Perhaps, knowing painfully the legacy of invidious discrimination they were seeking to overturn, they actually would not be surprised by this most recent turn of events. After all, every half century or so, the nation seems to back away from solving the problems of racial injustice, only to recommit itself to the cause when the pot is about to boil over. From the beginning of the Constitution to Dred Scott; from the Civil War and emancipation to Plessy; from Brown to today—we always seem to be better at articulating our ideals than delivering on them.

But it doesn't have to be this way. One of the things I learned in leading the litigation in the affirmative action cases was that dealing with issues of race is not something that people in the mainstream of American life want to talk about, but with the proper leadership, they will.

For example, while we were eventually praised for enlisting the support of forty of the Fortune 500 largest US corporations and from leaders in the military, it was exceedingly difficult to get those advocates to sign on to the cause of affirmative action in higher education. Like many of our political leaders, they were convinced that a majority of Americans would oppose them, and pointed to Prop 209 in California for proof. It was only after the Late President Gerald Ford agreed to stand with us that things began to change. "I don't want future college students to suffer the cultural and social impoverishment that afflicted my generation," he wrote in the New York Times. That is what inspired General Motors to sign on—only then were we "in business."

I fear this latest Court decision represents the first act and scene of a national tragedy of withdrawal from Brown and Grutter's promise of a more inclusive America—a perilous shift in the direction of constitutional law from the last half century. But the scenes that follow are still ours to write—if only we have the courage and will to take up the pen. As President Ford said, "If history has taught us anything . . . it is the notion of America as a work in progress."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC, yesterday because my flight from Seattle was cancelled. As a result I missed several recorded votes. Were I able, I would have voted in support of H.R. 2750, H. Res. 580, and H. Res. 579.